REMARKS

Claims 1-36 have been rejected and are pending. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Drawings

The drawings were objected to because they include reference characters not mentioned in the description. Applicant has amended the description to include these reference characters.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 14, 16, and 24 were objected to because they use the acronym HTS without first defining the acronym. These claims have been amended to first define the acronym. This definition was well known and appears in the original application in paragraph [0008].

Claim 16 was objected to because the Examiner did not find an antecedent basis for the language "the one of the entry packets" in line 12. This objection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. The element has an antecedent basis. It is in the immediately preceding element which introduces the element as "one of the entry packets."

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 14-16, 18-21, 23, 24, 26, 28-32, 34 and 35 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US PGPub 2003/0195815 to Li et al. ("Li"). This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 14 is directed to auditing the entry packet that is submitted to U.S. Customs by a customs broker. The entry packet is entered into a database. Internal records

relevant to the shipment are compared to the entry packet, and discrepancies are identified and reported.

The Examiner's citation to Li suggests that there may be a misunderstanding about what is meant in claim 14 by the phrase "entry packet." As explained in paragraph [0080] of the specification, an "entry packet" is the comprehensive information that the customs broker submitted to U.S. Customs. It is based on the information that the customs broker received from several parties, such as the importer, suppliers, freight forwarder, etc. However, the customs broker sometimes makes mistakes when completing this final documentation, such as when completing the form 7501. Claim 14 is directed to a computerized procedure for methodically catching these mistakes. The entry packet is entered into a database and compared to internal information for the purpose of identifying discrepancies. Li taught a different process. The audit that Li taught was of information that was provided *to* the customs broker which the customs broker then used to prepare the final customs documents, not the final customs documents themselves as required by claim 14. Paragraph [0028] of Li, for example, stated:

> When the broker 153 is satisfied that the customs information is both complete and correct for the shipped goods, the broker then instructs the customs information system 121 to send the complete set of customs information for the shipment to the broker for submission to the customs authority 115. . . .The broker then uses the sent customs information to *prepare* the final customs documentation.

(Emphasis added.) Indeed, Li taught that only a given percentage of the entire customs filing package should reviewed, *see* ¶ [0061], thus meaning that large portions of the entry packet were not reviewed. Unlike claim 14, Li did not disclose

that the entire entry packet should be reviewed or that the review should be done by entering the entry packet into a database.

In short, claim 14 is not anticipated by Li because Li failed to disclose a basic element in claim 1 – computerizing auditing of the actual entry packet.

Claims 16, 24, and 34 are independent and similar to claim 1 and not anticipated by Li for comparable reasons.

Claims 15, 18-21, 23, 28-32, and 35 are dependent upon claim 16, 24, or 34 and thus are also not anticipated by Li.

Claim 32 also requires the entry packet information to be entered by an analyst working for the importer. This further distinguishes over Li, as Li nowhere taught this feature. The paragraph ([0022]) cited by the Examiner merely stated that "personnel" of the buyer might indirectly enter "customs information." The text did not state that any of the "personnel" was an analyst or that the customs information was the information placed into the entry packet, as required by claim 32.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

Claims 1-9 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US PGPub 2002/0120561 to Chin et al. ("Chin") in view of US PGPub 2003/0195815 to Li et al. ("Li"). This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 1 requires an entry packet containing information relating to a shipment for importation to be received by an importer from a customs broker. The importer enters the entry packet into a first repository, compares it to records relating to imported goods, identifies discrepancies, and generates a report

identifying them. Claim 1 is similar to claim 14, but more specific in terms of where the entry packet comes from and who enters, compares, identifies, and reports on discrepancies.

The Examiner's citation to Chen again suggests that there may be a misunderstanding about what is meant in claim 14 by the phrase "entry packet." As explained above and as set forth in paragraph [0080]of the specification, the "entry packet" is comprehensive information that the customs broker submitted to U.S. Customs based on information that the customs broker received from several parties, such as the importer, suppliers, freight forwarder, etc. However, the customs broker sometimes makes mistakes when completing this final documentation, such as when completing the form 7501. Claim 1 is thus directed to a procedure for methodically catching these mistakes. The importer receives the entry packet information from the customs broker, enters it into a database, compares it to internal information, and identifies discrepancies.

The Examiner admits that Chin was not concerned with auditing customs information. The Examiner nevertheless contends that Chin disclosed that an importer received the entry packet from a customs broker and entered it into a database. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Chin disclosed the entry of an "Entry Summary Document." See ¶ [0118]. This was an on-screen form. See Figs. Nowhere, however, did Chin disclose that the importer received the entry packet that the customs broker had submitted to Customs from the customs broker and then entered it into a database. To the contrary, the data that was entered into this form came from a multitude of sources,

including an "organization's profile" [0120], a commercial invoice from the supplier [0030], and information from carrier/freight forwarders [0031]. It is apparent from reading Chin that the "Entry Summary Document" represented the initial assembly of information that was to go into the entry packet, not a replica of the information that actually went into the entry packet and that was subsequently entered into a database.

There was also no disclosure in Chen that the importer even received the entry packet from the customs broker, as also required by claim 1. To the contrary, and as explained above, Chen was concerned with the initial assembly of the information that ultimately went into the entry packet.

There was also no disclosure in Chen that it was the importer that entered the entry-related information, as also required by claim 1. To the contrary, Chen disclosed that a multitude of parties entered data into system. *See* ¶s [0024] (customs broker), [0027] (system administrator), [0028] (U.S. Customs Service), [0031] (carrier/freight forwarders), [0033] (bankers), [0034] (other users).

Applicant also respectfully disagrees that Li disclosed that the entire entry packet should be entered into a database and audited. As explained above in connection with claim 14, the entry packets in Li were prepared based on the audited information, not vice versa. Indeed, much of the final customs filing package was never even reviewed in Li, and there was no disclosure that this final customs filing package was entered into a database.

In short, Chen and Li, even in combination failed, to disclose several features of claim 1.

Claims 2-9 and 11-13 are dependent upon claim 1 and thus are also patentable in view of Chen and Li.

Claims 5 and 12 also require the entry packet to include a 7501 Customs form. The portion of Chen that the Examiner cited (¶ [0120]) merely stated that the Entry Summary Document "corresponds" to form 7501, not that the information that was actually on the form 7501 was copied into the customs system, as required by claims 5 and 12.

Claim 9 requires attribute classifications to be compared. Applicant could not find any disclosure of such a feature in the paragraph of Li that was cited by the Examiner (¶ [0061]). Should the Examiner continue to contend that this feature was disclosed in Li, Applicant would be grateful for a quotation of the language on which the Examiner relies.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US PGPub 2002/0120561 to Chin et al. ("Chin") in view of US PGPub 2003/0195815 to Li et al. ("Li") as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of US PGPub 2003/0163447 to Sandman ("Sandman"). This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 10 is dependent upon claim 1. As explained above, Chin and Li failed to disclose several features of claim 1, even in combination. Nowhere does the Examiner contend that these deficiencies are cured by Sandman. Thus, claim 10 is also patentable in view of Chin, Li and Sandman, even in combination.

Claims 17, 27, 33 and 36 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US PGPub 2002/0120561 to Chin et al. ("Chin") in view of US

PGPub 2003/0195815 to Li et al. ("Li") as applied respectively to claims 16, 26, 24 and 34, and further in view of US PGPub 2003/0163447 to Sandman ("Sandman"). This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claims 17, 27, 33 and 36 are dependent upon claims 16, 24, 26, or 34. As explained above, Chin and Li failed to disclose several features of claims 16, 26, 24, and 34, even in combination. Nowhere does the Examiner contend that these deficiencies are cured by Sandman. Thus, claims 17, 27, 33 and 36 are also patentable in view of Chin, Li and Sandman, even in combination.

Claims 22 and 25 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US PGPub 2002/0120561 to Chin et al. ("Chin") in view of US PGPub 2003/0195815 to Li et al. ("Li") as applied to claims 16 and 24, and further in view of US PGPub 2003/0163447 to Sandman ("Sandman"). This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claims 22 and 25 are dependent upon claims 16 and 24. As explained above, Li and Chin failed to disclose several features of claims 16 and 24, and 34, even in combination. Thus, claims 16 and 24 are also patentable in view of Li and Chin.

Claims 22 and 25 also require the entry packet to include a 7501 Customs form. The portion of Chen that the Examiner cited (¶ [0120]) merely stated that the Entry Summary Document "corresponds" to form 7501, not that the information that was actually on the form 7501 was copied into the customs system, as required by claims 22 and 25.
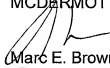
<div align="center">**Conclusion**</div>

The Applicant respectfully submits that the above remarks and amendments place this application in a condition for allowance, which the Applicant respectfully solicits.

A petition for a one-month extension of time under 37 C.F.C. 1.136 is being filed contemporaneously herewith. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 501946 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account and reference attorney docket no. 64706-038.

Respectfully submitted,

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